WHAT IF THEY CALL ME "CHICKEN"?

# A MESSAGE TO OUR BOYS AND GIRLS ---

This comic book has been given to you in the hope that the story of Timmy will keep you from taking or using any drug which has not been prescribed for your own use by a physician or given you by a parent for the treatment of an illness, and that you will never experiment even once with any drug which has been given to you or sold to you by someone else.

When prescribed by a physician for your particular use, obtained on prescription from a registered druggist, and used exactly as prescribed, you have nothing to fear. Drugs so used are medicines and are necessary in the treatment of illness and disease.

Whenever you use a drug in any other manner or one obtained from any other source, however—

You have no way of knowing what its effect upon you may be.

You have no way of knowing of its purity or strength, or even whether it is the drug someone tells you it is. There is no way at all you can identify a drug by its shape or color.

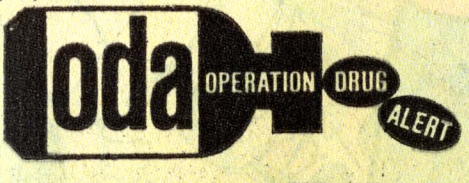
Remember, too, that the possession or sale of certain drugs is against the law and that the penalties in some cases are severe.

If anyone tries to give or to sell marijuana or any other drug to you, or tries to get you to use one, let your parents know.

If you want to learn more about drugs and their effects, get your information from authoritative sources. A good one in the United States is:

National Clearinghouse For Drug Abuse Information
Box 1080,
Washington, D.C. 20013

or talk with a druggist or a physician.

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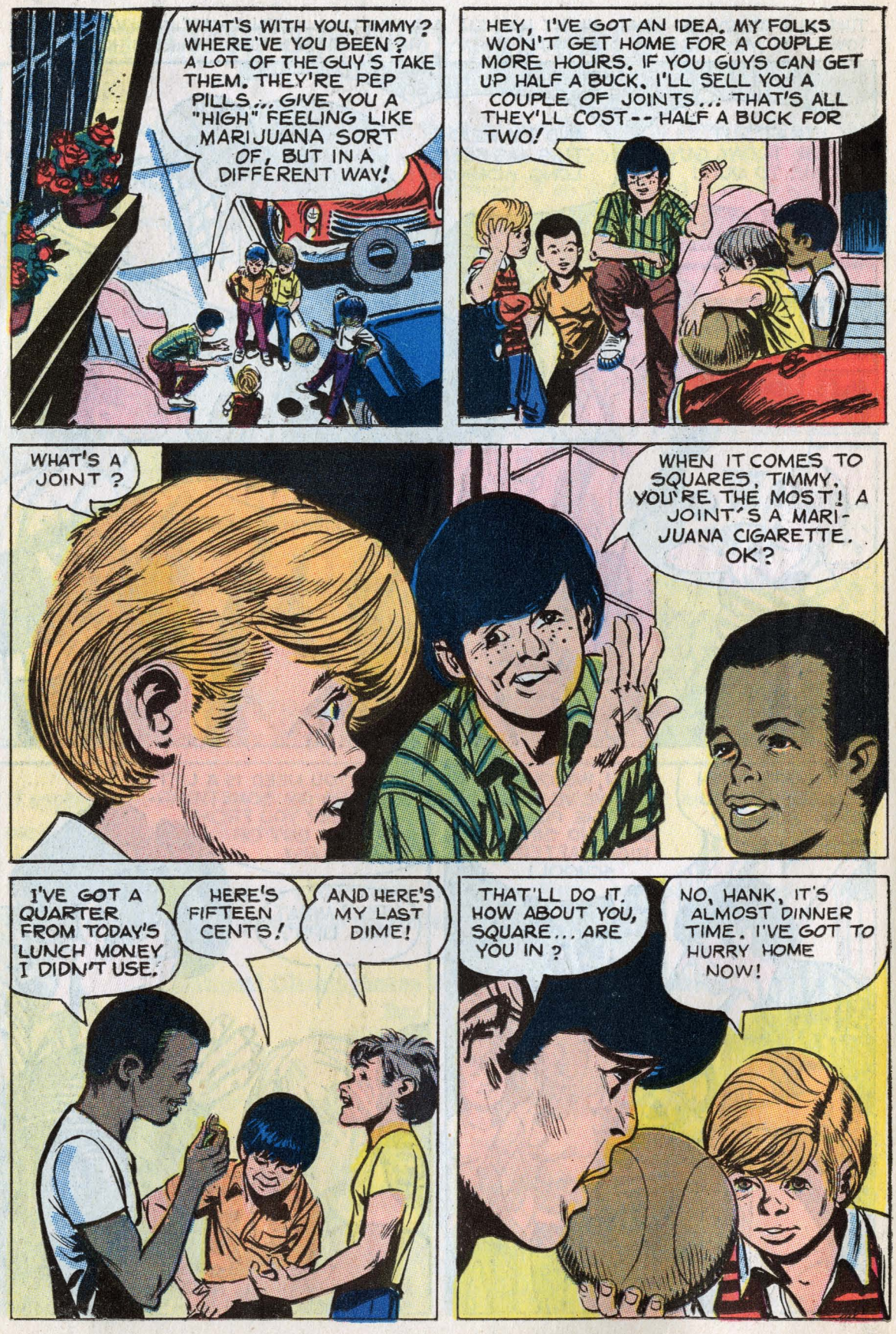
THIS IS A STORY OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN ANYWHERE.-EVEN RIGHT IN YOUR HOME TOWN. ITS MESSAGE IS ONE THAT EVERY GIRL AND BOY SHOULD REMEMBER...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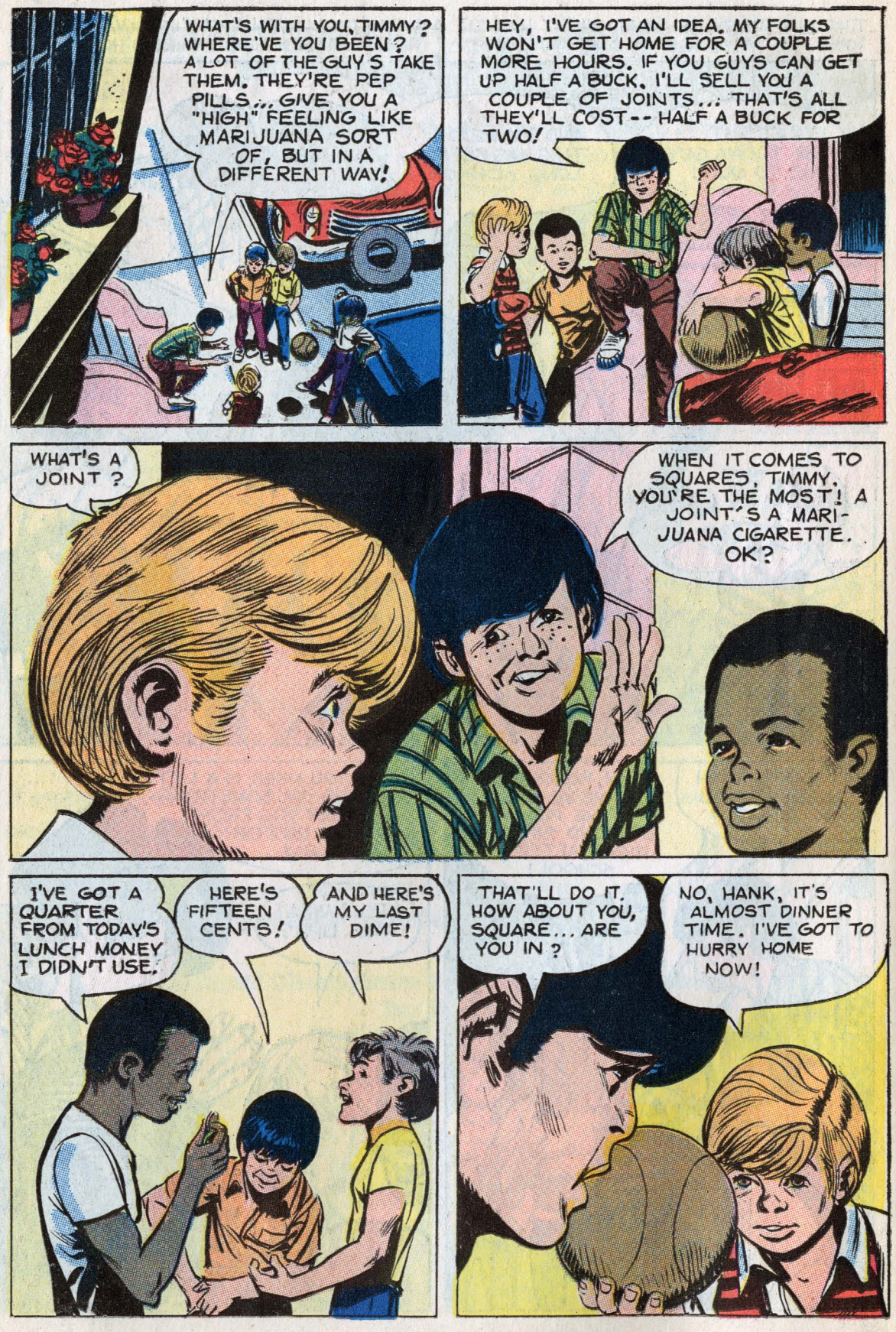
HEY, I'VE GOT AN IDEA. MY FOLKS WON'T GET HOME FOR A COUPLE MORE HOURS. IF YOU GUYS CAN GET UP HALF A BUCK, I'LL SELL YOU A COUPLE OF JOINTS... THAT'S ALL THEY'LL COST -- HALF A BUCK FOR TWO!
WHAT'S A JOINT?
WHEN IT COMES TO SQUARES, TIMMY, YOU'RE THE MOST! A JOINT'S A MARIJUANA CIGARETTE. OK?
I'VE GOT A QUARTER FROM TODAY'S LUNCH MONEY I DIDN'T USE.
HERE'S FIFTEEN CENTS!
AND HERE'S MY LAST DIME!
THAT'LL DO IT. HOW ABOUT YOU, SQUARE... ARE YOU IN?
NO, HANK, IT'S ALMOST DINNER TIME. I'VE GOT TO HURRY HOME NOW!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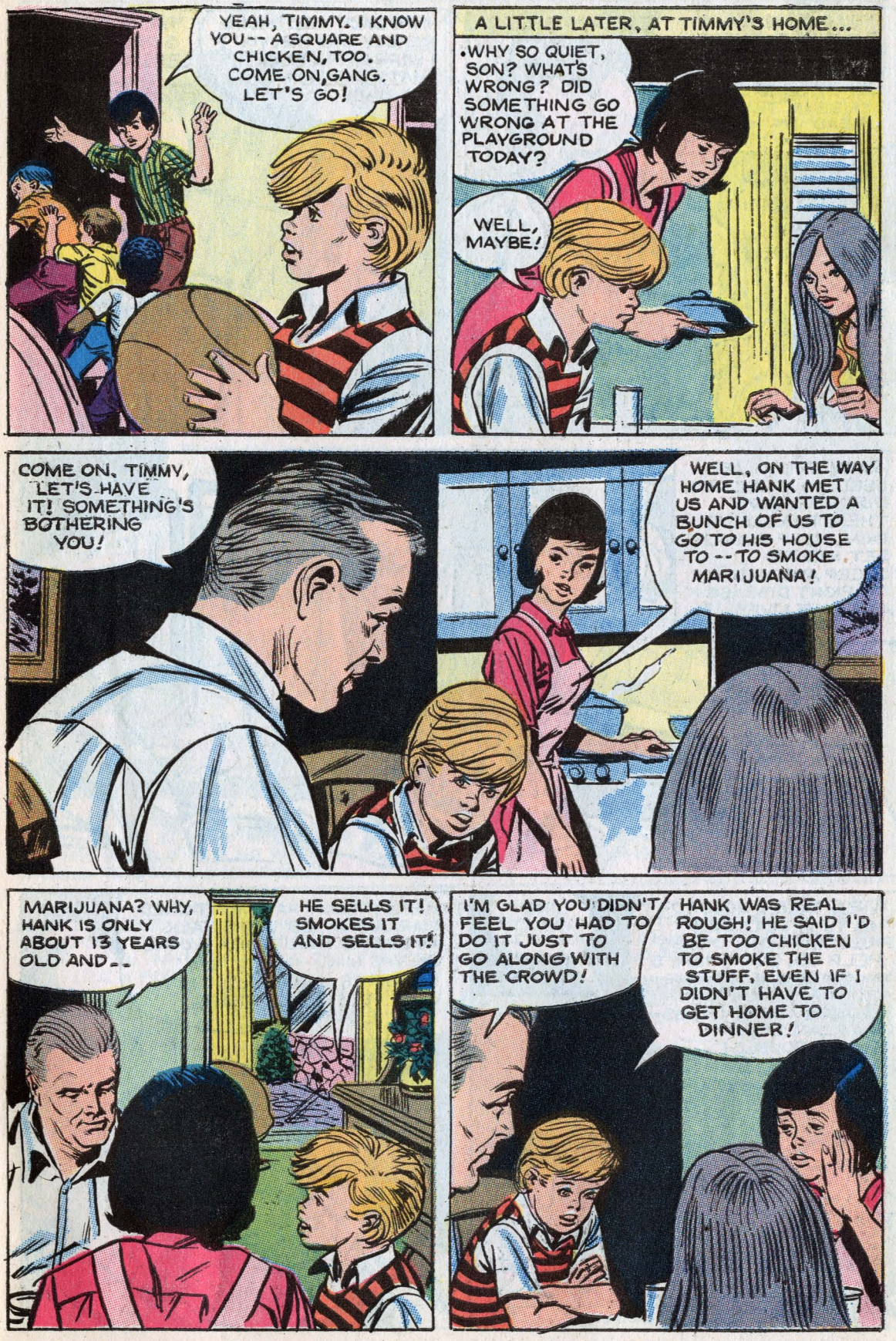
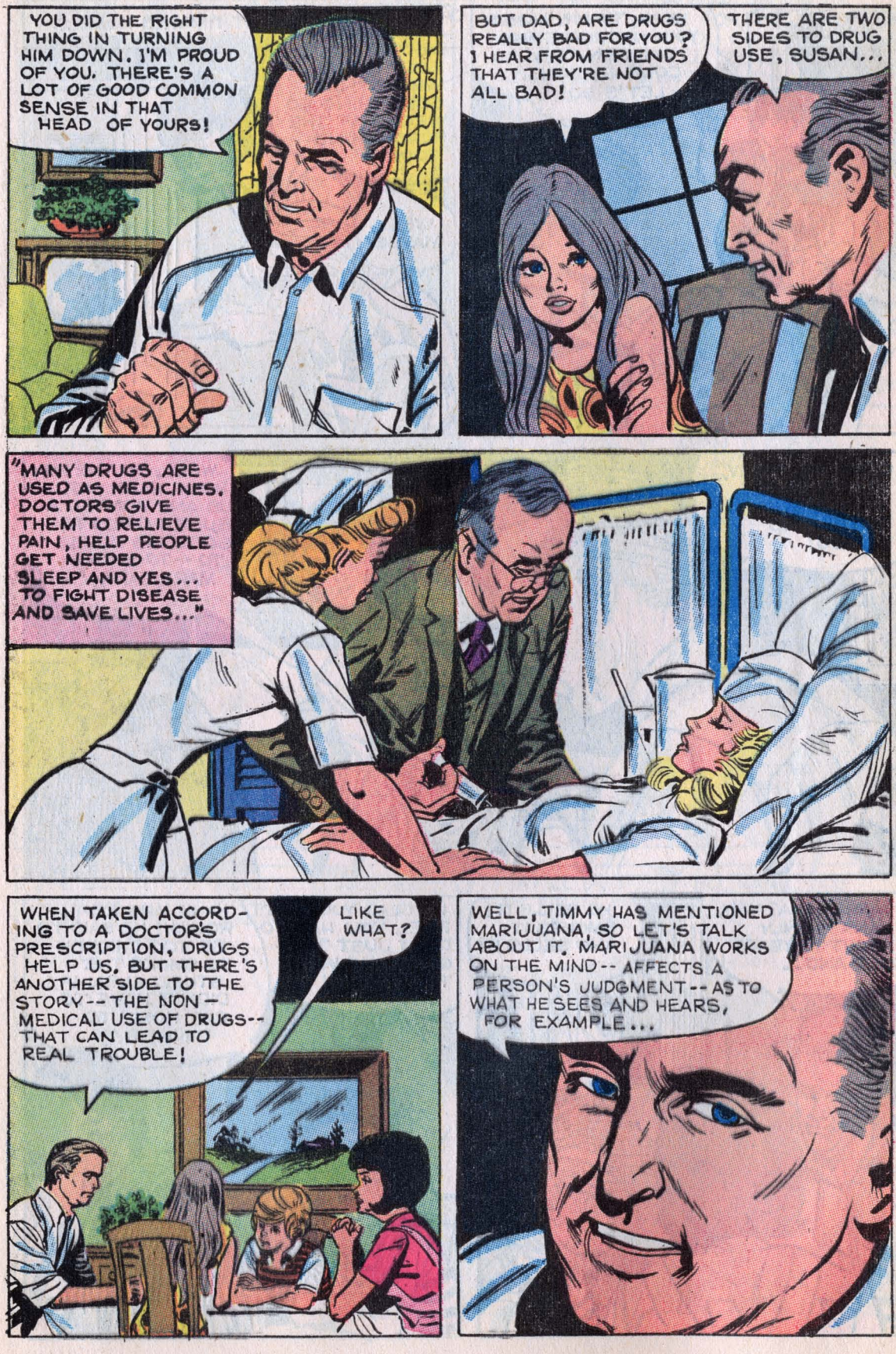

YEAH, TIMMY. I KNOW YOU-- A SQUARE AND CHICKEN, TOO. COME ON, GANG. LET'S GO!
A LITTLE LATER, AT TIMMY'S HOME...
WHY SO QUIET, SON? WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOMETHING GO WRONG AT THE PLAYGROUND TODAY?
WELL, MAYBE!
COME ON, TIMMY, LET'S HAVE IT! SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU!
WELL, ON THE WAY HOME HANK MET US AND WANTED A BUNCH OF US TO GO TO HIS HOUSE TO -- TO SMOKE MARIJUANA!
MARIJUANA? WHY, HANK IS ONLY ABOUT 13 YEARS OLD AND--
HE SELLS IT! SMOKES IT AND SELLS IT!
I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T FEEL YOU HAD TO DO IT JUST TO GO ALONG WITH THE CROWD!
HANK WAS REAL ROUGH! HE SAID I'D BE TOO CHICKEN TO SMOKE THE STUFF, EVEN IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO GET HOME TO DINNER!


YOU DID THE RIGHT THING IN TURNING HIM DOWN. I'M PROUD OF YOU. THERE'S A LOT OF GOOD COMMON SENSE IN THAT HEAD OF YOURS!
BUT DAD, ARE DRUGS REALLY BAD FOR YOU? I HEAR FROM FRIENDS THAT THEY'RE NOT ALL BAD!
THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO DRUG USE, SUSAN...
"MANY DRUGS ARE USED AS MEDICINES. DOCTORS GIVE THEM TO RELIEVE PAIN, HELP PEOPLE GET NEEDED SLEEP AND YES... TO FIGHT DISEASE AND SAVE LIVES..."
WHEN TAKEN ACCORDING TO A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION, DRUGS HELP US, BUT THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE TO THE STORY -- THE NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS -- THAT CAN LEAD TO REAL TROUBLE!
LIKE WHAT?
WELL, TIMMY HAS MENTIONED MARIJUANA, SO LET'S TALK ABOUT IT. MARIJUANA WORKS ON THE MIND -- AFFECTS A PERSON'S JUDGMENT -- AS TO WHAT HE SEES AND HEARS, FOR EXAMPLE...

"A FEW PUFFS OF STRONG MARIJUANA CAN INTOXICATE A PERSON FOR SEVERAL HOURS...

"...HIS SENSE OF DISTANCE AND TIME CAN BE UPSET OR DISTORTED AND HE CAN LOSE SELF-CONTROL."

"THIS CAN CAUSE ACCIDENTS, AND DRIVING AN AUTOMOBILE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF AN INTOXICANT IS CERTAINLY RISKY AND HAZARDOUS!"

"...AT PRESENT, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE LONG RANGE EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA WILL BE ON EITHER THE MIND OR THE BODY BUT DOCTORS TELL US THAT AS OF NOW IT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO KNOWN MEDICAL VALUE. ONE THING IS SURE: MARIJUANA IS A DRUG TO STAY AWAY FROM!"

WE'VE LEARNED IN SCHOOL THAT MARIJUANA MAKES A PERSON FEEL "HIGH". IS THAT RIGHT?

WELL IN A WAY, YES, IN HEAVY ENOUGH DOSES, THAT IS THE EFFECT FOR MANY. THAT'S WHY DOCTORS CALL IT A HALLUCINOGEN--A DRUG THAT CAUSES HALLUCINATIONS.

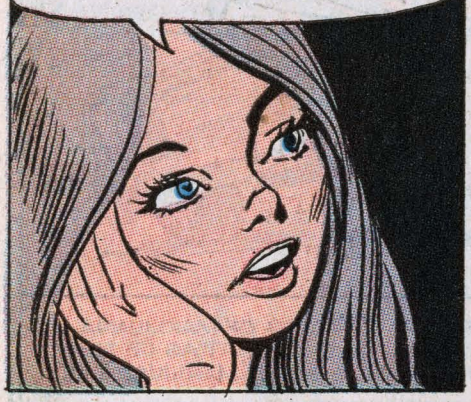
"THE HALLUCINATORY DRUGS CAUSE REACTIONS RANGING ALL THE WAY FROM JOY TO FEAR AND TERROR!"

"THE STRONGER HALLUCINOGENS -- ESPECIALLY **LSD** -- CAN CAUSE A PERSON TO BE DEPRESSED AND MENTALLY DISTURBED FOR MONTHS OR YEARS AND TO REQUIRE PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT."

GEE, I DIDN'T KNOW DRUGS COULD DO THAT!

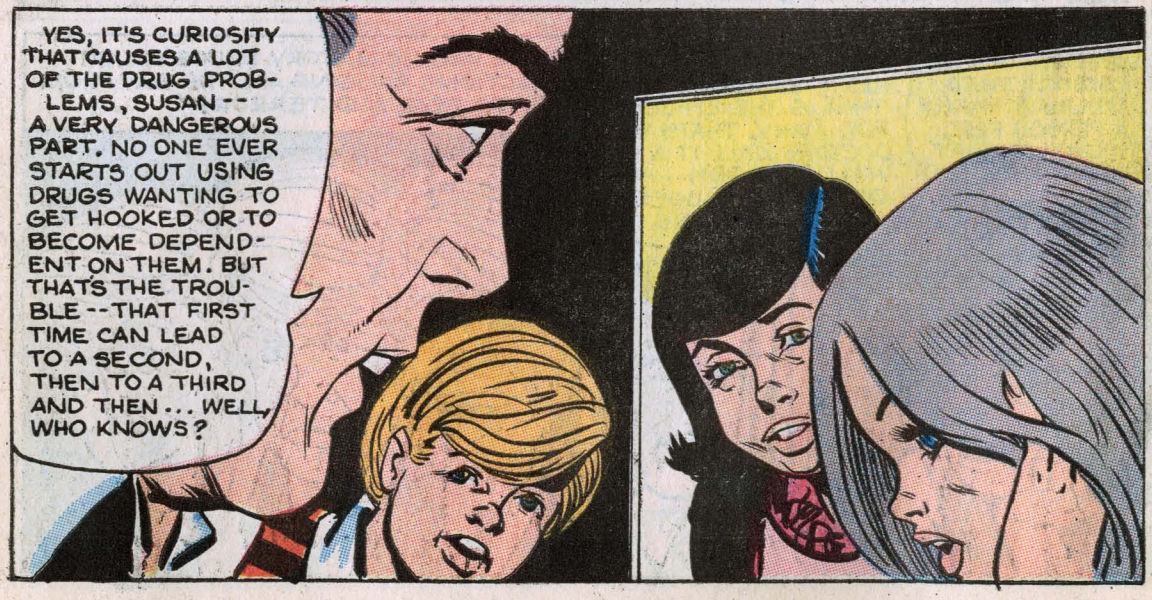
YES, TIMMY, IT'S SAD BUT TRUE THAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT TODAY BECAUSE MONTHS AGO THEY MADE THE MISTAKE OF FOOLING AROUND WITH POWERFUL DRUGS LIKE **LSD**. SOME FOUND IT SO UNBEARABLE THEY COMMITTED SUICIDE.

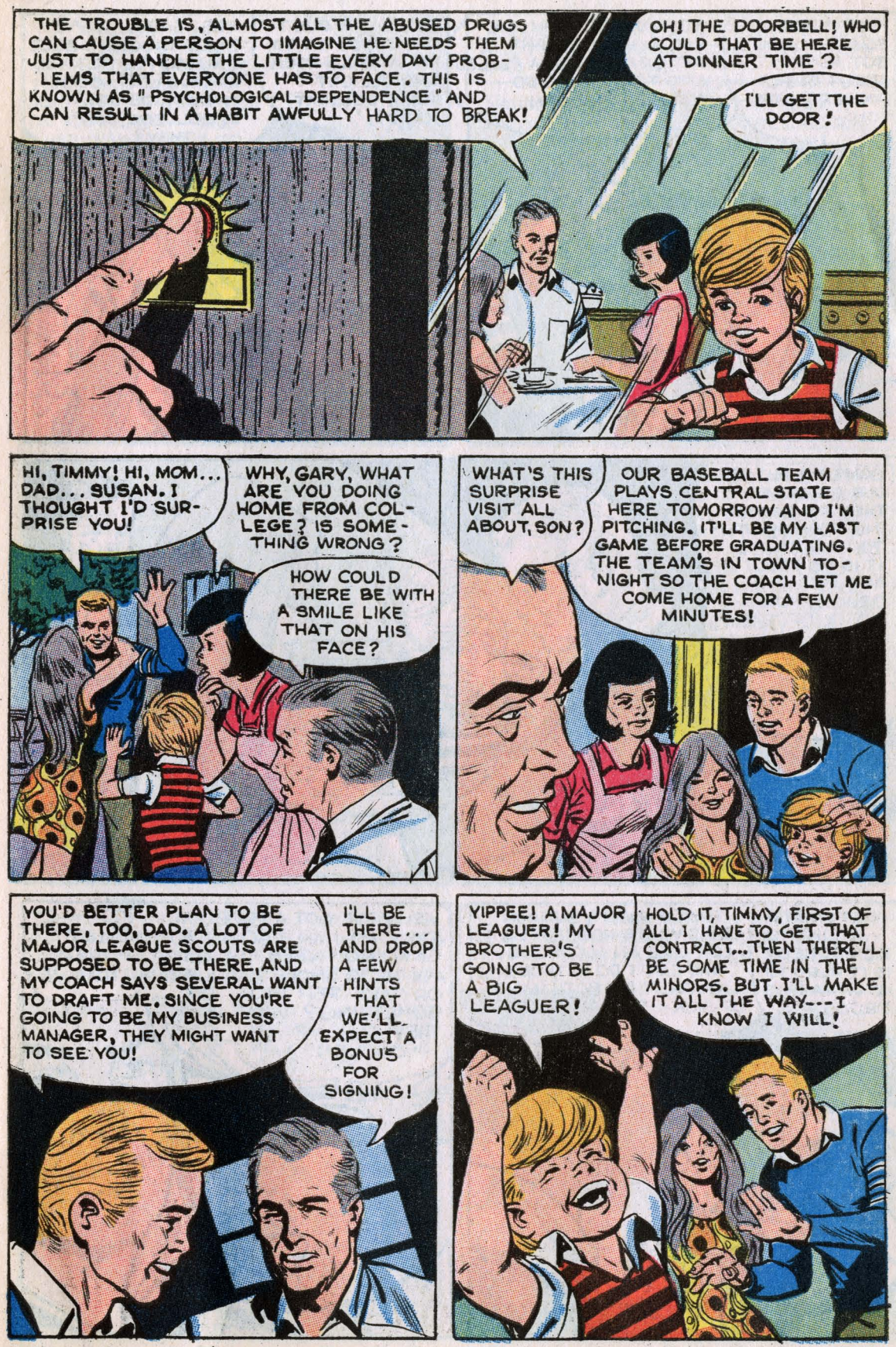
BUT DAD, SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR GIRLS I KNOW SMOKE "POT" -- THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL MARIJUANA. NOW TAKE BONNIE... SHE'S SO POPULAR I ALMOST WISH I COULD BE LIKE HER...

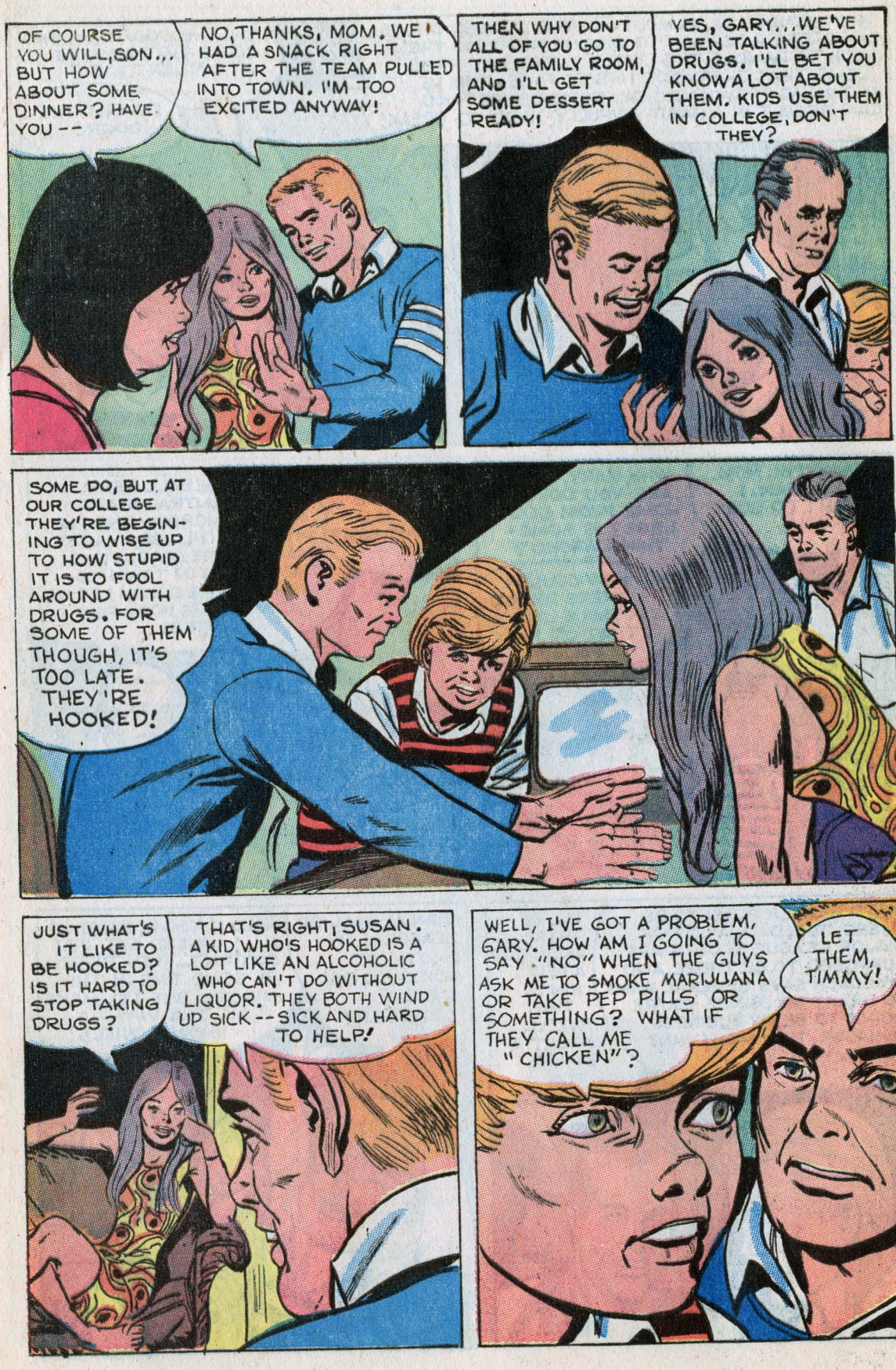


"... AT OUR LAST SCHOOL DANCE WHEN WE WERE IN THE POWDER ROOM BONNIE TOOK A FEW PUFFS OF A MARIJUANA CIGARETTE AND OFFERED IT TO ME. SHE SAID IT WOULD MAKE ME LET GO AND GET WITH IT -- HAVE A BALL! I DIDN'T SMOKE IT BUT SHE WAS REALLY LIVING IT UP AND I'M CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT IT WOULD HAVE DONE FOR ME..."

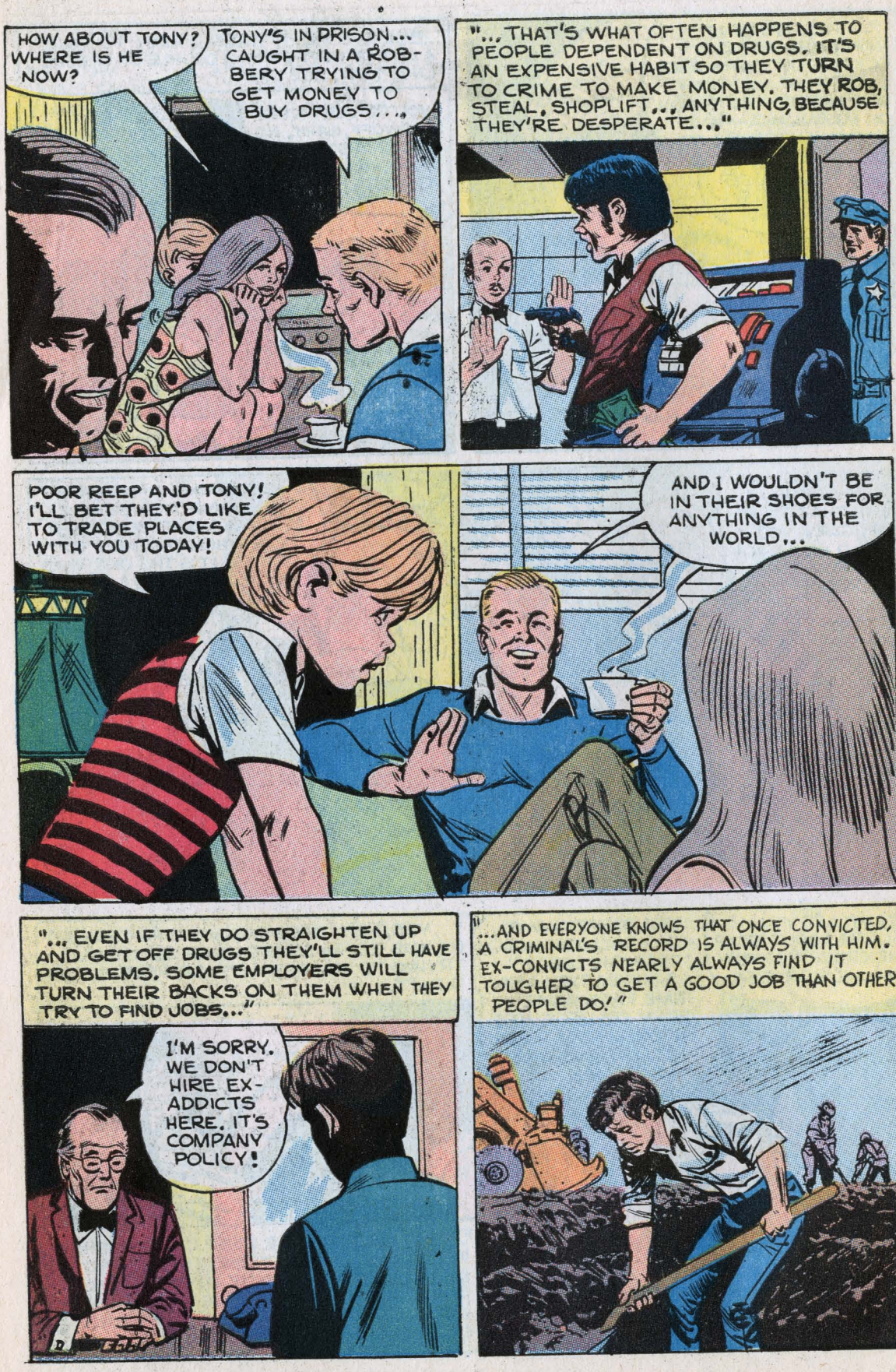
YES, IT'S CURIOSITY THAT CAUSES A LOT OF THE DRUG PROBLEMS, SUSAN -- A VERY DANGEROUS PART. NO ONE EVER STARTS OUT USING DRUGS WANTING TO GET HOOKED OR TO BECOME DEPENDENT ON THEM. BUT THAT'S THE TROUBLE -- THAT FIRST TIME CAN LEAD TO A SECOND, THEN TO A THIRD AND THEN... WELL, WHO KNOWS?

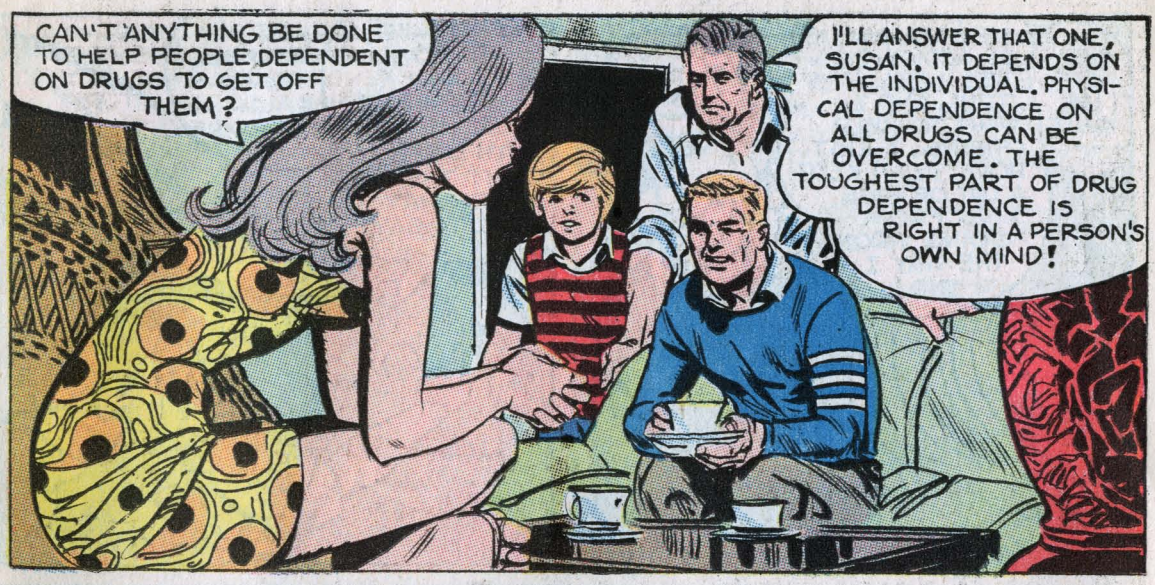


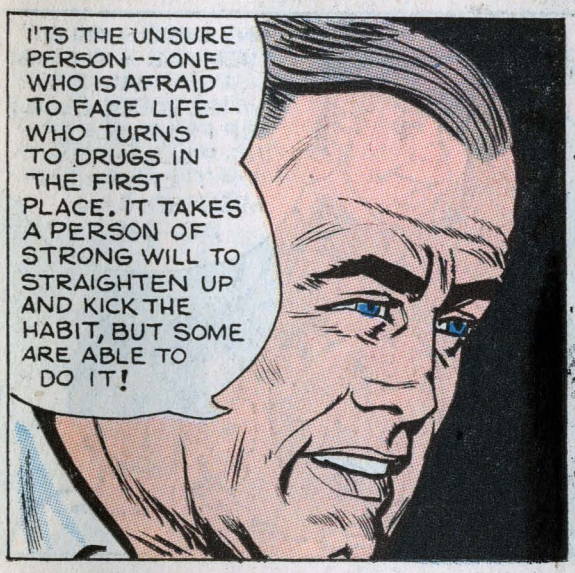

THE TROUBLE IS, ALMOST ALL THE ABUSED DRUGS CAN CAUSE A PERSON TO IMAGINE HE NEEDS THEM JUST TO HANDLE THE LITTLE EVERY DAY PROBLEMS THAT EVERYONE HAS TO FACE. THIS IS KNOWN AS "PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE" AND CAN RESULT IN A HABIT AWFULLY HARD TO BREAK!
OH! THE DOORBELL! WHO COULD THAT BE HERE AT DINNER TIME?
I'LL GET THE DOOR!
HI, TIMMY! HI, MOM... DAD... SUSAN. I THOUGHT I'D SURPRISE YOU!
WHY, GARY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOME FROM COLLEGE? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HOW COULD THERE BE WITH A SMILE LIKE THAT ON HIS FACE?
WHAT'S THIS SURPRISE VISIT ALL ABOUT, SON?
OUR BASEBALL TEAM PLAYS CENTRAL STATE HERE TOMORROW AND I'M PITCHING. IT'LL BE MY LAST GAME BEFORE GRADUATING. THE TEAM'S IN TOWN TONIGHT SO THE COACH LET ME COME HOME FOR A FEW MINUTES!
YOU'D BETTER PLAN TO BE THERE, TOO, DAD. A LOT OF MAJOR LEAGUE SCOUTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, AND MY COACH SAYS SEVERAL WANT TO DRAFT ME. SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY BUSINESS MANAGER, THEY MIGHT WANT TO SEE YOU!
I'LL BE THERE... AND DROP A FEW HINTS THAT WE'LL EXPECT A BONUS FOR SIGNING!
YIPPEE! A MAJOR LEAGUER! MY BROTHER'S GOING TO BE A BIG LEAGUER!
HOLD IT, TIMMY, FIRST OF ALL I HAVE TO GET THAT CONTRACT... THEN THERE'LL BE SOME TIME IN THE MINORS. BUT I'LL MAKE IT ALL THE WAY--- I KNOW I WILL!

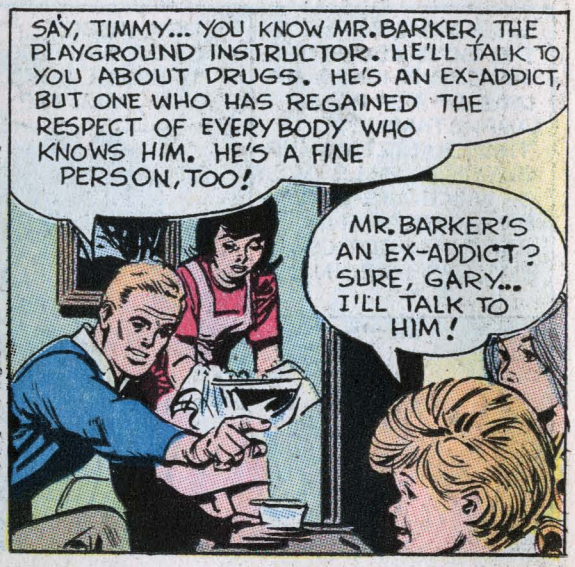

OF COURSE YOU WILL, SON... BUT HOW ABOUT SOME DINNER? HAVE YOU --
NO, THANKS, MOM. WE HAD A SNACK RIGHT AFTER THE TEAM PULLED INTO TOWN. I'M TOO EXCITED ANYWAY!
THEN WHY DON'T ALL OF YOU GO TO THE FAMILY ROOM, AND I'LL GET SOME DESSERT READY!
YES, GARY... WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT DRUGS. I'LL BET YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THEM. KIDS USE THEM IN COLLEGE, DON'T THEY?
SOME DO, BUT AT OUR COLLEGE THEY'RE BEGINNING TO WISE UP TO HOW STUPID IT IS TO FOOL AROUND WITH DRUGS. FOR SOME OF THEM THOUGH, IT'S TOO LATE. THEY'RE HOOKED!
JUST WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE HOOKED? IS IT HARD TO STOP TAKING DRUGS?
THAT'S RIGHT, SUSAN. A KID WHO'S HOOKED IS A LOT LIKE AN ALCOHOLIC WHO CAN'T DO WITHOUT LIQUOR. THEY BOTH WIND UP SICK -- SICK AND HARD TO HELP!
WELL, I'VE GOT A PROBLEM, GARY. HOW AM I GOING TO SAY "NO" WHEN THE GUYS ASK ME TO SMOKE MARIJUANA OR TAKE PEP PILLS OR SOMETHING? WHAT IF THEY CALL ME "CHICKEN"?
LET THEM, TIMMY!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO ME A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. I MET REEP AND TONY ONE NIGHT -- BOTH HIGH ON MARIJUANA -- AND THEY WANTED ME TO SMOKE IT. BUT I SAID NO. DRUGS AND CAREERS DON'T MIX.
"...BELIEVE ME, IT WASN'T EASY TO TAKE A LOT OF GUFF FROM A COUPLE OF CREEPS LIKE THAT, BUT I DID..."
YOU'RE JUST A BIG SHOWOFF, GARY. NO GUTS! YOU'RE A MAKE-BELIEVE ATHLETE!
YEAH, GARY... YOU'RE CHICKEN, CHICKEN!
AND YOU LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THAT TALK? WHY, GARY, YOU COULD LICK BOTH OF THOSE BUMS AT ONCE!
YES, TIMMY, .. AND WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND MY BACK! BUT REMEMBER THIS: WHEN IT COMES TO DRUGS, IT'S THE ONE WHO IS CHICKEN WHO CALLS ANOTHER A NAME LIKE THAT! GUYS LIKE REEP AND TONY USE DRUGS AS A CRUTCH TO LEAN ON BECAUSE THEY'RE WEAK AND AFRAID OF LIFE!
GARY, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT "REEP THE CREEP"? I KNOW HIM. HE'S GROSS!
YES, THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL HIM NOW... "REEP THE CREEP". I SAW HIM THE LAST TIME I WAS HOME FROM COLLEGE. HE'S HOOKED NOW, POOR FELLOW, AND WHAT A SAD CASE...
"...YES, HE'S THE SAME GUY WHO THOUGHT HE WAS BEING SMART USING DRUGS AND TRYING TO RUN DOWN OTHER PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T..."
"... BUT UNLESS POOR REEP CAN SOMEHOW PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER, THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT IN LIFE FOR HIM TO LOOK FORWARD TO -- NOTHING BUT MISERY AND TOMORROW'S JOB OF GETTING MORE DRUGS TO FEED HIS ADDICTION!"

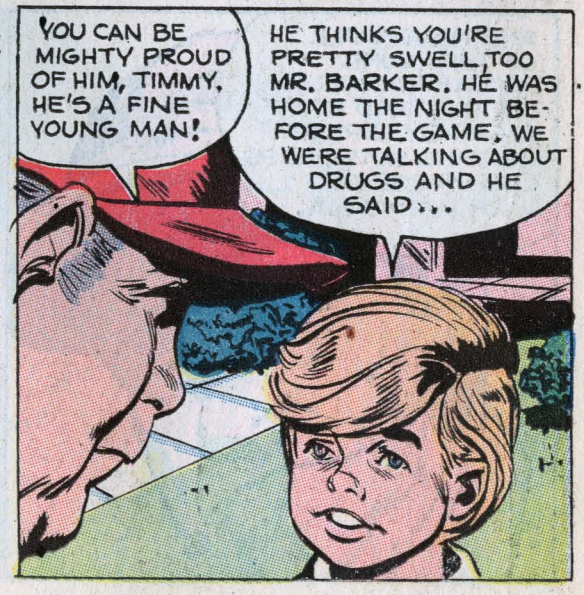

HOW ABOUT TONY? WHERE IS HE NOW?
TONY'S IN PRISON... CAUGHT IN A ROBBERY TRYING TO GET MONEY TO BUY DRUGS...
"... THAT'S WHAT OFTEN HAPPENS TO PEOPLE DEPENDENT ON DRUGS. IT'S AN EXPENSIVE HABIT SO THEY TURN TO CRIME TO MAKE MONEY. THEY ROB, STEAL, SHOPLIFT... ANYTHING, BECAUSE THEY'RE DESPERATE..."
POOR REEP AND TONY! I'LL BET THEY'D LIKE TO TRADE PLACES WITH YOU TODAY!
AND I WOULDN'T BE IN THEIR SHOES FOR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD...
"... EVEN IF THEY DO STRAIGHTEN UP AND GET OFF DRUGS THEY'LL STILL HAVE PROBLEMS. SOME EMPLOYERS WILL TURN THEIR BACKS ON THEM WHEN THEY TRY TO FIND JOBS..."
I'M SORRY. WE DON'T HIRE EX-ADDICTS HERE. IT'S COMPANY POLICY!
"...AND EVERYONE KNOWS THAT ONCE CONVICTED, A CRIMINAL'S RECORD IS ALWAYS WITH HIM. EX-CONVICTS NEARLY ALWAYS FIND IT TOUGHER TO GET A GOOD JOB THAN OTHER PEOPLE DO!"


CAN'T ANYTHING BE DONE TO HELP PEOPLE DEPENDENT ON DRUGS TO GET OFF THEM?
I'LL ANSWER THAT ONE, SUSAN. IT DEPENDS ON THE INDIVIDUAL. PHYSICAL DEPENDENCE ON ALL DRUGS CAN BE OVERCOME. THE TOUGHEST PART OF DRUG DEPENDENCE IS RIGHT IN A PERSON'S OWN MIND!

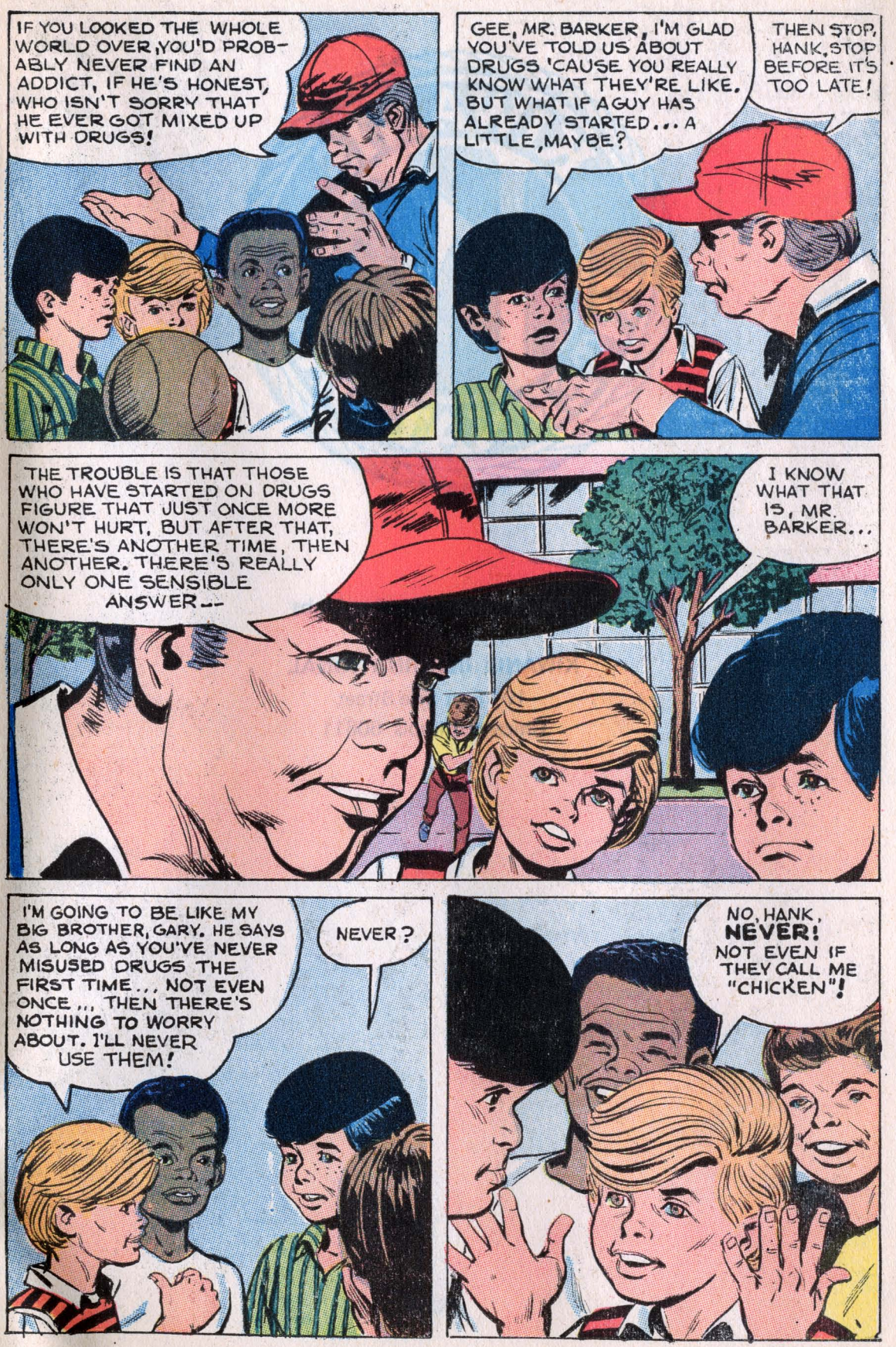

IT'S THE UNSURE PERSON -- ONE WHO IS AFRAID TO FACE LIFE -- WHO TURNS TO DRUGS IN THE FIRST PLACE. IT TAKES A PERSON OF STRONG WILL TO STRAIGHTEN UP AND KICK THE HABIT, BUT SOME ARE ABLE TO DO IT!


SAY, TIMMY... YOU KNOW MR. BARKER, THE PLAYGROUND INSTRUCTOR. HE'LL TALK TO YOU ABOUT DRUGS. HE'S AN EX-ADDICT, BUT ONE WHO HAS REGAINED THE RESPECT OF EVERYBODY WHO KNOWS HIM. HE'S A FINE PERSON, TOO!
MR. BARKER'S AN EX-ADDICT? SURE, GARY... I'LL TALK TO HIM!

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT THE PLAYGROUND.
HI, TIMMY. I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT YOUR BIG BROTHER PITCHED ANOTHER NO-HITTER IN HIS LAST GAME... AND THAT HE'S ALREADY SIGNED TO PLAY PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL!


YOU CAN BE MIGHTY PROUD OF HIM, TIMMY, HE'S A FINE YOUNG MAN!
HE THINKS YOU'RE PRETTY SWELL, TOO MR. BARKER. HE WAS HOME THE NIGHT BEFORE THE GAME. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT DRUGS AND HE SAID...

WELL, ER, HE SAID --
HE SAID I'M AN EX-ADDICT, DIDN'T HE? WELL, IT'S TRUE, AND I WANT TO HELP OTHERS. I JUST HOPE I CAN KEEP A LOT OF NICE KIDS FROM GOING WRONG THE WAY I DID!
MR. BARKER, COULD I CALL HANK AND STEVE OVER HERE TO TALK WITH US? I WANT THEM TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY!
OF COURSE, TIMMY, CALL THEM!
MR. BARKER TELLS THE BOYS ABOUT THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF DRUGS -- PEP PILLS (AMPHETAMINES), TRANQUILIZERS AND SLEEPING PILLS (MOST OF WHICH ARE BARBITURATES) AND HARD NARCOTICS, SUCH AS HEROIN...
HOW ABOUT GLUE SNIFFING? IT WON'T HURT YOU, WILL IT?
ANY DRUG -- ANY CHEMICAL -- THAT IS MISUSED CAN BE DANGEROUS! GLUE, PEP PILLS, SLEEPING PILLS -- ANY OF THEM, WHEN MISUSED, CAN BE BAD!
AND NEARLY ALL OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THE HARD STUFF BEGAN BY EXPERIMENTING WITH DRUGS LIKE THESE AND WITH MARIJUANA.
THAT'S WHERE A LOT OF THE TROUBLE IS. LOTS OF TIMES AFTER A YOUNG PERSON STARTS OUT ON ONE DRUG, HE GOES ON TO ANOTHER BELIEVING THAT HE WON'T BECOME DEPENDENT -- THAT IT JUST WON'T HAPPEN TO HIM. THEN ONE DAY HE WAKES UP TO THE SAD FACT THAT HE'S HOOKED... AND THAT IS THE SADDEST DAY IN ANYONE'S LIFE!


IF YOU LOOKED THE WHOLE WORLD OVER, YOU'D PROBABLY NEVER FIND AN ADDICT, IF HE'S HONEST, WHO ISN'T SORRY THAT HE EVER GOT MIXED UP WITH DRUGS!
GEE, MR. BARKER, I'M GLAD YOU'VE TOLD US ABOUT DRUGS 'CAUSE YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE LIKE. BUT WHAT IF A GUY HAS ALREADY STARTED... A LITTLE, MAYBE?
THEN STOP, HANK, STOP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THE TROUBLE IS THAT THOSE WHO HAVE STARTED ON DRUGS FIGURE THAT JUST ONCE MORE WON'T HURT, BUT AFTER THAT, THERE'S ANOTHER TIME, THEN ANOTHER. THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE SENSIBLE ANSWER--
I KNOW WHAT THAT IS, MR. BARKER...
I'M GOING TO BE LIKE MY BIG BROTHER, GARY. HE SAYS AS LONG AS YOU'VE NEVER MISUSED DRUGS THE FIRST TIME... NOT EVEN ONCE... THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I'LL NEVER USE THEM!
NEVER?
NO, HANK, **NEVER!** NOT EVEN IF THEY CALL ME "CHICKEN"!